

Claims

1. (currently amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) a plurality of adjacent cutting chambers, each of the chambers having a front wall and a top surface in an interior thereof;

b) a cutting blade housed within each of the chambers, each of the blades being rotatable within its chamber and defining a cutting plane therein for the cutting of vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades causing a respective stream of air and vegetation to flow when it rotates and further causing its stream to be directed against and laterally along the front wall of its respective chamber; and

c) a baffle having multiple segments, the segments ~~for~~ causing the stream from one of the chambers to flow upwardly above the stream from an adjacent chamber.

4. (previously amended) The implement as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the baffle is joined to at least a first and a second of the plurality of chambers and extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of those chambers.

6. (currently amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;

b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;

c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane, each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and

d) a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and including first and second ~~portions-segments~~ with each of the ~~portions-segments~~ being generally above the cutting plane of the blades therein, at least one of the ~~portions-segments~~ being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it

leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade.

8. (currently amended) The implement as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the baffle reduces the stream or flow of cut vegetation below its first and second ~~portions-~~
segments to permit the vegetation bent over by the front walls of the first and second chambers to
straighten so as to extend into the cutting plane of the blade of at least the second chamber.

9. (original) The implement as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the baffle constricts the area of flow available for the streams directed therealong and
routes the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the stream of the first chamber
below the baffle.

10. (original) The implement as recited in claim 9 wherein:

the baffle extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers.

11. (original) The implement as recited in claim 8 wherein:

the baffle extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers.

12. (currently amended) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) a plurality of adjacent cutting chambers, the chambers being defined in part by a
continuous front wall on an interior thereof and each having a top surface therein;

b) a cutting blade housed within each of the chambers, each of the blades being rotatable
within its chamber and defining a cutting plane therein for the cutting of vegetation in the path of
the implement, each of the blades causing a respective stream of air and vegetation to flow when
it rotates and further causing its stream to be directed against and laterally along the front wall of
its respective chamber, one of the blades further directing its respective stream along the front
wall of an adjacent chamber; and

c) a baffle which is joined to the front walls of the adjacent chambers and which includes
first and second ~~portions-~~segments, each ~~portion-~~segment being generally above the cutting plane
of the blades in the adjacent chambers, at least one of the ~~portions-~~segments being inclined relative
to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of one of the chambers flows after it

leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade.

13. (re-presented -- formerly dependent claim 9) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;

b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;

c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane, each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and

d) a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and including first and second portions with each of the portions being generally above the cutting plane of the blades therein, at least one of the portions being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it leaves the edge of its respective cutting blade, the baffle constricts constricting the area of flow available for the streams directed therealong and routes routing the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the stream of the first chamber below the baffle.

14. (re-presented -- formerly dependent claim 10) A cutting implement usable with a vehicle, the implement comprising:

a) first and second laterally spaced and adjacent cutting chambers, both chambers having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the interior surfaces of both chambers having a front wall;

b) a discharge opening adjacent the first chamber for allowing material to exit the first chamber;

c) a cutting blade housed within each chamber for cutting vegetation in the path of the implement, each of the blades being rotatable so as to define a generally horizontal cutting plane,

each of the rotating blades generating a stream of air to convey the cut vegetation outwardly from its edge when it rotates with the stream being directed against and along the front wall; and

B) d) a baffle joined to the front walls of the first and second chambers and ~~extends~~
extending laterally inwardly from the front walls of the chambers, the baffle including first and
second portions with each of the portions being generally above the cutting plane of the blades
therein, at least one of the portions being inclined relative to the other thereof to form a ramp
along which the stream of the second chamber flows after it leaves the edge of its respective
cutting blade, the baffle constricts~~constricts~~ the area of flow available for the streams directed
therealong and routes~~routes~~ routing the stream from the second chamber above the baffle and the
stream of the first chamber below the baffle.
